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Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 00831 131626Z

10
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00

CU-02 AID-05 /065 W
---------- 074464
R 131611Z FEB 76
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6274
INFO :AMEMBASSY AMMAN 1165
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR GERMANY

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 0831

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS SY
SUBJ: REPORTS OF RECENT DISTURBANCES IN HAMA AND DAMASCUS

1. FEB 13 ISRAELI RADIO BROADCAST EGYPTIAN PRESS REPORT OF CLASH IN HAMA BETWEEN STUDENTS AND AUTHORITIES IN WHICH SENIOR SYRIAN INTELLIGENCE OFFICIAL KILLED. WELL-INFORMED SYRIAN BUSINESSMAN TOLD EMB OFF THAT CLASH HAD TAKEN PLACE IN HAMA RECENTLY, THAT HIGH-RANKING SECURITY OFFICIAL HAD BEEN KILLED, AND THAT DISTURBANCE CONSIDERED POLITICAL INCIDENT. SECOND SOURCE WHO HAS REPORTED RELIABLY IN PAST TOLD US THAT ALAWI DIRECTOR OF HAMA INTELLIGENCE OFFICE HAD BEEN ASSASSINATED IN HAND GRENADE ATTACK, BUT HAD NO DETAILS.

2. ACCORDING TO THIS SOURCE, ANOTHER ALAWI MILITARY OFFICER WAS FOUND DEAD RECENTLY NEAR DAMASCUS. HE ADDED LAST WEEK THREE OR FOUR CHRISTIAN TEENAGERS WERE KIDNAPPED IN DAMASCUS AND THEIR BODIES HAVE REPORTEDLY JUST BEEN DISCOVERED. THIRDLY, HE RELAYED
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DETAILS OF CONVERSATION WITH EYEWITNESS TO DAMASCUS

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INCIDENT FEW DAYS AGO IN WHICH TWO CHRISTIAN MILITARY OFFICERS IN UNIFORM WERE ATTACKED ON STREET BY FIVE INDIVIDUALS WHO HAD CUT THEM OFF WITH CAR WITH LEBANESE LICENSE PLATES. ONE OFFICER MANAGED TO DISCHARGE HANDGUN WHICH FRIGHTENED ATTACKERS OFF, BUT BOTH SUFFERED KNIFE WOUNDS AND NOW IN HOSPITAL.

3. COMMENT: EMBASSY SEEKING ADDITIONAL CONFIRMATION OF ABOVE INCIDENTS WHICH SOURCES ATTRIBUTE VARIOUSLY TO EGYPTIAN OR IRAQI INTELLIGENCE SERVICES, UNDERGROUND MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD OR LEBANESE/PALESTINIAN REACTIONISTS.

MURPHY

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: buchant0
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Errors: N/A
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